

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Digital Repository

---

Volume 56 | Issue 2

Article 5

---

1994

## In Memory of Sally Fry

Linda Meetz

*Iowa State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate\\_veterinarian](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Veterinary Medicine Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Meetz, Linda (1994) "In Memory of Sally Fry," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 56 : Iss. 2 , Article 5.

Available at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate\\_veterinarian/vol56/iss2/5](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol56/iss2/5)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

## In Memory of Sally Fry

As the Fall 1994 semester began, I caught a glimpse of a new student looking at the library's bookdrop with an expression of amusement and wonder. I'd forgotten that a new set of people don't know how an ugly, out-of-date piece of equipment came to be painted to resemble an elephant. I also knew that this was a place to begin to remember Sally Fry.

Sally came to this college as Veterinary Medical Librarian in the Fall of 1991 from the Parks Library, where she had been a reference librarian since 1987. She came quietly, assuring us she wouldn't change things right away, letting us all grow accustomed to working with a new department head. She recognized the need for a bookdrop, available to library users when the library was closed. The library's budget wouldn't accommodate a new bookdrop. We assured Sally that the Park's Library's old one had been considered and rejected by the previous librarian. Sally decided the old one was better than nothing, and she held a contest for people to submit designs for painting the old piece to camouflage its ugliness. Her flier stipulated, "no orange paint!" When asked why, she told us with a smile, "I HATE orange!" Designs were submitted, a winner was chosen, and eventually the clunky old bookdrop became "The Never Forget Box," according to its designer.

In her low-key, quiet way Sally brought her staff "up to speed" with electronic technology. We learned E-mail and WordPerfect and automated circulation; and then the CD-ROM workstations came, and all of us learned to use and teach others to search MEDLINE and the CAB databases. Previously, only the librarian had the training and computer access to that information. As the library's need for space grew, Sally explored possibilities for adding shelving. She found enough shelving stored in the Park's Library to add two ranges to the Vet. Med. Library's serials stacks.

Quietly and patiently Sally persisted in upgrading two Merit staff positions in the Vet. Med. Library, as well as one in each reading room which she supervised. In the same way she succeeded in creating an office for me and finally moving me into it, my resistance dissolved at last.

She told us stories of her pets, especially her

cats, a cow named "Violet," and "our stupid dogs!" She regularly helped her husband with his veterinary practice and brought us some exciting stories of unusual incidents or animals. She shared stories of her children. I especially remember the delight on her face when she spoke of her daughter, or found the store's last pack of Aladdin valentines for Elizabeth to give to her schoolmates. Sometimes her children called her after school. She listened carefully and spoke as respectfully to them as she did to her colleagues, even if she had to say, "Just be a big brother!" Her children created their own stories for us, too. Sometimes they called when Sally was busy in the Parks Library. We would try to find her and ask her to call them, or we would try to help them ourselves. We still chuckle about the call from a nearly tearful son, who responded YES when asked if there was an emergency. We promised to try to find Mom and have her call. Before we could do that, the older brother called to say there really was no emergency. His younger brother was just upset because the cape had come off an art figure the younger brother had brought home from school. The older brother knew that someone would be in trouble if this "emergency" news had reached his mother at work!

Sally kept to herself and worked hard yet remained approachable and was always available to help with a question or crisis we couldn't handle. She was an excellent listener. She offered wise, carefully considered advice when asked, for both professional and personal concerns. She gave encouragement and affirmation when it was not expected. One of her friends summarized Sally's character by saying, "She solved everybody else's problems."

None of us can know why Sally made the decision to end her life. We continue to live with our questions. Even as we go about the business of moving on and keeping going, we miss her. I continue to appreciate the words of one of the seniors who said after Sally's death, "Sally had no idea how many people cared about her and loved her, but she knows now, and she's still with us."

Linda Meetz  
Library Assistant, Veterinary Medical Library